

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1322

By Moore

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the members of First Baptist Church Joelton on the occasion of the church's 95th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of Tennessee are crucial elements contributing to the social and spiritual health of our State, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize significant milestones in the lives of those communities of faith; and

WHEREAS, the good people of First Baptist Church Joelton comprise one such congregation, and this year they are celebrating the church's ninety-five years of service to the Lord and their community; and

WHEREAS, the rich history of First Baptist Church Joelton dates back to 1915 when twenty-three members formed the Joelton Baptist Church; services were held in a brush arbor owned by George R. Milliken, or, if weather necessitated, inside a tobacco barn; and

WHEREAS, with Joelton being a six hour horse-and-buggy ride from downtown Nashville, these humble servants of the Lord enjoyed their remote locale, basking in the beauty of God's creation and baptizing believers in a large pool in Sycamore Creek near the Davidson-Robertson County line, or occasionally in Whites Creek; and

WHEREAS, as the Great Depression descended upon the country, this once tiny community of faith began to flourish and increase its membership; the Joelton Baptist Church was formally dedicated on May 25, 1924, and obtained a \$3,000 loan from Whites Creek Bank in 1930 in order to expand and improve the house of worship; and

WHEREAS, the congregants were greatly saddened upon the passing of ninety-six-year-old charter member George Milliken in 1935, who, before he went on to his great reward, requested to be buried as close as possible to Joelton Baptist Church; his grave remains next to the old education building to this day; and

WHEREAS, throughout its storied history, the thriving congregation continued adding to their facilities, including constructing an educational building in 1956, holding their first services in their new auditorium, complete with a full basement for educational space, on December 15, 1963, building an educational facility and family life center in 1986, and moving into a new worship center in December of 1999, which contained an exact replica of the Ark of the Covenant; and

WHEREAS, while maintaining their love and devotion to the Lord and their fellow man, the congregation officially changed its name to First Baptist Church of Joelton in May of 1972; and

WHEREAS, the congregants of First Baptist Church Joelton have been blessed with spiritual leadership from a great many pastors who have faithfully guided the church through the many years of its existence, including Brother David Royalty, a man of integrity and character, who has shepherded his congregation through both the joys and the challenges of life for the past twenty years and reinstituted the ministry of the traditional "creek baptism" at Sycamore Creek; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, First Baptist Church Joelton has embarked upon countless outreach efforts and witnessed the birth of numerous inspirational and relevant programs, and today is proud to welcome members and visitors alike to participate in its many fellowship and service groups, including Christian Sportsmen, Joelton Christian Streetrodders, 39ers, Forerunners, W.I.S.E., and Men's Prayer Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, First Baptist Church Joelton is one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church Joelton has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for almost a century, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to their community and this state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join in celebrating the 95th anniversary of First Baptist Church

Joelton, thank the good people of this remarkable congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.